

Libby
Health Area Office,
LAUNCESTON.

October, 1957

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To: The Chairman and Councillors of the
Rural District of Stratton.

Mr Chairman, Mrs Alford and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1956.

The number of deaths was smaller than in 1955 and the number of births showed an increase. One stillbirth and one infant death were reported.

A considerable epidemic of Measles occurred during the year, but no fatal cases were recorded. The incidence of Whooping Cough was higher than in the previous year and one death was attributed to this cause. Once again, no cases of diphtheria and no cases of poliomyelitis were notified. The Ministry of Health introduced a limited scheme of vaccination against poliomyelitis during the year.

In the sanitary circumstances of the district, steady progress was maintained. Negotiations for the merger of the District with the North Devon Water Board continued, but were not complete by the end of the year. New legislation with regard to food came into effect during the year and the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 laid down more specific standards with regard to food and catering premises and practices than had previously been the case.

The Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act 1956 changed the familiar title to that of Public Health Inspector. The old name had come to be associated with a rather more narrow and restricted field of work than has been the case for some considerable time and the new title expresses the modern view of the wider aspect of this work.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr Yeo, the Council's Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, for the valuable assistance he has given in all aspects of our work, and in the preparation of this report.

It is a pleasure once more gratefully to acknowledge the interest and encouragement which the Council has at all times shown.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM PATERSON

Medical Officer of Health

STRATTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

E.E. CORY, Chairman

W.S. LUCAS, Vice-Chairman

W.H. LITTLEJOHNS

Mrs K.M. ALFORD

W.S. BRAY

J. CORY

S.P. GRYLLS

W.T. AXFORD

A.F. BEADLE

R. METHERELL

G. ROWLAND

F.J. TREWIN

W.J. NOBBS

J.C. BINES

J.J.H. SMEETH

H.F. WALKER

R.J. PUTTEN

T.C. HONEY

F. WARD

J. JAMES

F. MARTIN

J.B. GRILLS

F. MARRINER

E.J. SMEETH

S.M. GUBBIN

F.T. COLWILL

M.G. MILL

M. HICKMAN

R.G. TAPE

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

W. PATERSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of:

Medical Officer of Health:

Bude/Stratton Urban District Council

Launceston Rural District Council

Launceston Borough Council

Camelford Rural District Council

Assistant County Medical Officer, Area 6, Cornwall County Council

School Medical Officer, Cornwall County Council

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

A.L. YEO, A.R.I.C.S., A.R.S.H

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	56,285
Population	5,250
No. of separate dwellings occupied	1,718
Rateable Value 31.12.56	£35,396.
Product of ld. rate 1956-57	£141. 3. 6.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 estimated population</u>
Live Births				
Legitimate	80	44	36	15.24
Illegitimate			N I L	
Stillbirths	1	-	1	.19
Deaths (all causes)	58	31	27	11.05
Deaths from Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis			N I L	
Other Puerperal causes				
Infant Mortality				
(Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births)	1	1	-	12.50

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	6	3	9
Measles (all ages)		N I L	
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)		N I L	

Natural and Social Conditions

Area (in acres) 56,285. The Rural District of Stratton is mainly agricultural in character and the tourist industry in the coastal area forms an important part of the community life.

Population. The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year to be 5,250. The "natural increase" in the population is an excess of births over deaths. In 1956 there were 58 deaths and 80 births, 22 more births than deaths.

Vital Statistics. It is important that too much weight should not be attached to small variations in these rates from one year to the other, particularly where relatively small populations are involved - attention should rather be paid to the trend of these rates over a period of years.

Deaths. The total number of deaths assigned to the District for the year was 58. The crude death rate based on the mid-year population was 11.05. The following table for the past five years has been compiled for purposes of comparison:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Recorded Rate</u>
1952	60	29	31	10.72
1953	51	26	25	9.58
1954	51	28	23	9.58
1955	77	36	41	14.47
1956	58	31	27	11.05

In order to compare the mortality in the District with the mortality for England and Wales, it is necessary to make a correction to allow for the difference in age and sex distribution of the two populations. This is done by applying to the crude death rate of the District an "Area Comparability Factor" which has been estimated by the Registrar General as 1.08 for this District.

The Standardised Death Rate, therefore, is 11.93 which may be compared with that of 11.7 for England and Wales.

Births. The number of live births assigned to this District was 80 compared with 73 in 1955. The rate per thousand of the population is 15.24. When the Registrar General's Area Comparability Factor for births (1.31) is applied to this figure, the Standardised Birth Rate is 19.96 for this District, compared with 15.6 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths. There was 1 stillbirth during 1956.

Illegitimate Births. There were no illegitimate births in the District during the year, compared with 2 in 1955.

Maternal mortality. No maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

Infant Mortality. 1 death of an infant under one year of age was recorded during the year. This death, within one hour of birth, was due to prematurity and congenital abnormalities.

MORTALITY TABLE

Classified in accordance with 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classifications of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	1	1
6.	Meningococcal infection	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	-	4
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	1	2
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	8	11
18.	Coronary disease, angina	2	2	4
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	6	5	11
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
22.	Influenza	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	2	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	-	-	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	5	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34.	All other accidents	1	-	1
35.	Suicide	1	-	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		31	27	58
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

General Medical Services

General medical services under Part IV of the National Health Service Act, 1946, are provided by medical practitioners resident in the district and in adjoining districts, all of whom undertake maternity medical services.

County Council Services

- I Health Department. The County Council is the local health authority for the purposes of Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, and provides the following services in the district:
- (a) Midwifery and Home Nursing: Nurse-midwives are provided to attend general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.
 - (b) Health Visiting: The nurse-midwives act also as health visitors and, with special training in the care of the mother and young child, are available to give advice on health matters in the home or at the clinic. They act also as school nurses.
 - (c) Infant Welfare Centre: A fortnightly Infant Welfare Clinic is held at the Castle, Bude.
 - (d) Dental Clinic: Priority dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children is available at the Dental Clinic held weekly at the Castle, Bude.
 - (e) Vaccination and Immunisation: Facilities for vaccination against small-pox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough are provided at the Infant Welfare Clinic or by the supply of materials to the family doctor.
 - (f) Home Help Service: Home helps are employed to provide domestic help for households in certain circumstances, a charge being made for this service according to the means of the person concerned.
 - (g) Ambulance Service: A service of ambulances for the conveyance of sick, accident and emergency cases is provided. For sitting cases, utilicon sitting case vehicles are used. When appropriate, some such cases are carried by the Hospital Car Service, a voluntary organisation. Day-to-day administration of the service is carried on from the Health Area Office, Launceston.
 - (h) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care: A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is provided for the care and after-care of tuberculous persons. District nurses are available to assist in the home treatment of such persons when required by the Chest Physician or family doctor. Certain special investigations are carried out in other types of illness by district health visitors, while health education is carried out by the County's Medical and Nursing staff.

- (j) Mental Health: The County Council has certain responsibilities in connection with the ascertainment of mental ill-health and mental deficiency, with the provision of statutory supervision, etc. for mental defectives living in the community, and with the provision of after-care following treatment for mental illness. The Duly Authorised Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

II Education Department: As local Education Authority, the County Council is responsible for the School Health Service, which provides the following:-

Periodic Medical Inspection of pupils
Cleanliness Surveys of pupils
Dental Inspection and treatment of pupils
Ascertainment of handicapped pupils in need of special education
Treatment clinics weekly at the Castle, Bude:

Dental clinic - each Thursday
Speech Therapy- each Friday morning

Child Guidance, by arrangement at Plymouth Child Guidance Clinic.

III Welfare Department: This service is concerned with the welfare of the aged and with that of various categories of handicapped persons. It is concerned also with the provision of temporary accommodation in certain circumstances for persons in urgent need thereof. The Welfare Officer for the district works from the Health Area Office, Launceston.

Hospital Service

The South Western Regional Hospital Board is the hospital authority for the Area. Stratton Cottage Hospital provides in-patient and out-patient facilities in the district. Patients are referred also to hospitals in Plymouth and elsewhere. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Plymouth, and tuberculosis patients to Didworthy or Tehidy Sanatoria. Mental hospital accommodation is provided by St. Lawrence's Hospital and Laninval House, Bodmin, and Moorfields Hospital, Ivybridge, Devon.

An Orthopaedic Clinic is held weekly at the Castle, Bude and a Physiotherapy Clinic at Dawfield Hospital, Holsworthy. The Chest Clinic is held at Launceston Hospital. An Ophthalmic Clinic for school and pre-school children is held periodically at the Castle, Bude. A Specialist Ante-Natal clinic is held at the Launceston Health Clinic each week.

Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Dix's Field, Exeter, to which specimens for bacteriological examination are sent.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER

Negotiations for the merger of this district with the North Devon Water Board have continued throughout the year. Certain objections to the Draft Order were made by the Devon County Council and the Cornwall County Council, but agreement between the respective Authorities has now been reached and the objections withdrawn. It is now anticipated that the merger of the greater part of the Council's area comprising the Parishes of Jacobstow, Killhampton, Launcells, Morwenstow, North Tamerton, St. Gennys, Week St. Mary and Whitstone will take place on the first of April 1957.

The lack of rainfall in the early months of the year under review following the abnormally dry weather experienced in 1955 occasioned some anxiety in regard to certain of the Council's water supplies and it was considered advisable to sink additional boreholes to meet the expected increase in demand during the summer season. These emergency measures, which will be dealt with later in this report, proved most successful, and in consequence no serious shortage of water was experienced during the year.

The present position in regard to the water supplies in the Council's area is as follows:-

The Parishes of Marhamchurch and Poundstock are within the Statutory water area of the Bude-Stratton Urban District Council.

Marhamchurch. Some 123 houses are supplied with water from the Bude-Stratton Urban District Council's main supply. The quantity is adequate, and the quality satisfactory.

Widemouth, Poundstock. At Widemouth the main water supply is provided by a private Water Company who purchase the water in bulk from the Bude-Stratton Urban District Council, and this is supplemented during the summer months by a borehole which is owned by the Company. During the peak of the summer season there was a considerable reduction in the quantity of water made available from the Urban District Council's main supply due to the heavy draw off in the lower levels of the Urban District Council's area, and in consequence some complaints regarding shortage of water were received from the occupants of the houses on the higher levels at Widemouth. 104 houses are provided with a full main supply.

Bangors, Poundstock. The main water supply scheme laid down by this Council continued to function satisfactorily throughout the year. The water is derived from a borehole situated on the Council's Housing Estate. The supply is adequate and the quality satisfactory.

27 dwellings, School, Parish Hall, Sunday School and two farms are supplied from this source.

Killhampton. It was considered advisable by the Council to supplement this supply with an additional borehole, making four boreholes in all from which the supply is drawn.

This emergency measure proved most successful, as it was possible to introduce this additional supply into the main system prior to the peak of the summer season. In consequence no shortage was experienced and the quality of the water is satisfactory.

145 dwellinghouses, two schools, public conveniences and Parish Hall are provided with full main supplies, and a further 9 houses continue to draw their supplies from stand-pipes.

Grimscott, Launcells. This village is provided with a main water supply scheme derived from a borehole situated on the Council's Housing estate. An adequate supply was available throughout the year and the quality is satisfactory,

23 houses and school have been connected to this supply and 7 connections have been made for farm supplies.

St. Gennys. The main water supply for this Parish is derived from two boreholes. During the peak of the summer season when the supply from the second borehole was introduced improvised measures for the removal of the iron in the water from the second borehole were adopted. Before, however, the supply can be considered fully satisfactory improved pumping plant and permanent treatment works will be necessary, and a length of main between Church Park Council houses and Benjys Field should be replaced with pipes of larger diameter.

With the exception of the iron content, the quality of the water is satisfactory, and an abundant quantity seems to be available in the second borehole.

58 houses and 2 farms are connected to this supply.

Week St. Mary. During the year a second borehole has been sunk to a depth of 160 feet on a site on the Council's Housing Estate for the purpose of supplementing the original borehole supply. This secondary supply was brought into service prior to the summer months and up to the time of writing this report has been most successful. It has been found possible to place the original borehole supply in reserve and to draw all the water needed for this village from the new borehole.

With the exception that the water as drawn from the borehole has a fairly high iron content, the quality is satisfactory, and with the aid of the iron removal plant installed in the original scheme good potable water is produced.

Morwenstow. A borehole has been sunk to a depth of 150 feet at Shop, Morwenstow. The test pumping proved satisfactory and the quality of the water was found to be suitable for the requirements of a public supply.

In consequence of the drought the yield of the borehole at Woodford occasioned some concern and as a precautionary measure it was decided to instal a pump in the new borehole at Shop and lay an emergency overground pipeline to the Woodford reservoir. The distance involved was some 1,300 yards.

It is hoped that it will be possible to proceed very shortly with the main water supply scheme for the Shop area including the placing underground of the emergency pipeline to the Woodford reservoir.

Jacobstow. No further progress has been made with the development of the main water supply scheme for this Parish from the borehole already sunk for this purpose. It is very desirable that the needs of the Parish should receive early attention following the impending merger with the North Devon Water Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements in the district are as follows:-

Morwenstow. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes are provided in the hamlets of Shop, Woodford, Woolley and Cooschan. In the case of Shop and Woodford respectively only partial treatment is provided at the Sewage Disposal Works.

Kilkhampton. This is the largest village in the area and is provided with a modern efficient Sewerage and Sewage Disposal system.

Marhamchurch. This village is satisfactorily sewered with the exception of one road on the outskirts.

Whitstone. The village of Boot is provided with a Sewerage and Sewage Disposal system.

Bangors, Poundstock. A satisfactory Sewerage and Sewage Disposal system is provided to this hamlet, and also serves the Council's housing estate at Bangors.

Widemouth Bay, Poundstock. This area is already sewered and it is desirable that at some time in the future the existing treatment works should be replaced by the provision of a sea outfall.

Treskinnick Cross, Poundstock. A Sewerage and Sewage Disposal scheme is provided in this small hamlet.

Week St. Mary. The new Sewerage and Sewage Disposal system for this village has now been completed, and work is in progress with the connecting of the drains of the various properties to the new system.

North Tamerton. Two small satisfactory Sewerage and Sewage Disposal schemes are provided in this Parish.

Brockhill Road, St. Gennys. It is satisfactory to report that during the year permission to proceed with the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal scheme was granted by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. A tender of £4,194 from Messrs Cann Bros. of Bude was accepted and work on the scheme is now nearing completion.

Grimscott, Launcells. A satisfactory Sewerage and Sewage Disposal scheme is provided for this village.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

No complaints in regard to pollution have been received during the year.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

During the year, 36 pail or privy closets have been converted to water closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse collection is undertaken in all Parishes as set out hereunder:-

PUBLIC CLEANSING

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>DATE OF COLLECTION</u>
<u>Morwenstow</u>	Last Saturday in each Month.
<u>Kilkhampton</u>	Each Saturday from June to September. Fortnightly from October to May.
<u>Stibb, Kilkhampton</u>	Second Saturday in each Month.
<u>Launcells</u>	First Saturday in each month.
<u>Marhamchurch</u>	Each Monday from May to October. Fortnightly from November to April.
<u>Week St. Mary</u>	First Friday in each Month.
<u>Whitstone</u>	"
<u>North Tamaraton</u>	"
<u>St. Gennys</u>	Last Thursday in each Month. Twice monthly during July, August and September.
<u>Jacobstow</u>	First Tuesday in each Month.
<u>Widemouth Bay</u>	Each Monday
<u>Poundstock</u>	Each Monday from June to September. Fortnightly from October to May.

Three refuse dumps are provided by the Council at Woolley, Morwenstow, Herdscott Lane, Kilkhampton and at Poundstock respectively, which serve the whole of the Council's area.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Modern well built public conveniences are provided by the Council at Widemouth Bay, Kilkhampton, Crackington Haven and Marhamchurch.

SHOPS

The small village shops found in this district are well maintained.

CAMPING SITES

Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 9

HOUSING STATISTICS

Since the Council's Post War housing programme began in 1945, ¹⁷⁵~~105~~ houses have been completed.

Number of new houses erected during 1956.....20
By the Local Authority.....12
By other persons..... 8

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action has been necessary

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

None

ERADICATION OF LEEB BUGS

No action necessary

SCHOOLS

Not the least satisfactory result of the Council's progressive policy in providing sewerage and water supply facilities in the built-up portions of their district has been the great improvement effected in the sanitation at the schools

At the beginning of the year only three schools in the Council's area, namely, Kilkhampton V.P.School, Poundstock and Grimscott, were without water borne drainage systems. Since then the Kilkhampton V.P. School has been permanently closed and the children transferred to the Kilkhampton C.P.School. In the case of the two remaining schools, it is now satisfactory to report that the pail closets have since been converted into water closets and connected to the Council's water supply and sewerage systems.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply. Retail licences have been granted to two Distributors who retail milk on a small scale, but in general the supervision of milk production in this area is the primary responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(b) Meat & Other foods. There are two privately owned slaughterhouses in the district, and these are well maintained.

The bulk of the meat supply is drawn from towns outside the Rural District.

A summary of carcasses inspected and condemned is set out hereunder:-

	<u>Bovines</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep & Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Horses</u>
Number killed (if known)	153	-	246	216	-
Number inspected	153	-	246	216	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	81	-	38	8	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	53%	-	15½%	4%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	8	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6%	-	-	4%	-

<u>Cysticercosis</u>	Bovines	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Summary of food condemned:-

82 Bovine livers	5 tins fruit
5 " lungs	1 tin soup
3 " hearts	3 tins mixed vegetables
1 " head	2 tins steak
38 Sheep livers	1 tin carrots
6 Pigs livers	7 tins peas
2 pigs plucks	3 tins milk
7 Pigs heads	
2 Port carcasses and organs.	

- (c) Bakehouses have been inspected and are well kept.
 (d) Adulteration, etc. No action required.
Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foods
 No action required
 (e) Nutrition "
 (f) Shell-fish No beds in the district.

1. Number of food premises in the area:

Butchers	7
Grocers	17
Greengrocers	1
Bakers	2
Cafes	7
Mobile fish & chip van	1
Licensed premises	6
Milk Distributors	2

2. Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955:

Preparation or manufacture of sausages	3
Manufacture or sale of ice cream	11
Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949	NIL

3. Number of inspections of registered food premises 34

4. New Educational Activity. Following the introduction of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, leaflets explaining the purpose of the Regulations and setting out the salient points were circulated to owners of food premises in the district. In addition, a number of joint inspections have been made by the Medical Officer and Public Health Inspector when the Regulations have been explained in detail

and the necessary improvements to the premises indicated to the persons concerned.

5. All condemned meat is collected and sterilised by a specialist firm operating in this area. Other foodstuffs are disposed of by burial or burning.
6. No special examination of a stock or consignment of food has been necessary.
7. With reference to Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 52, no ice cream is actually manufactured in this area.

In general this is purchased by the Retailers from the firms who operate on a national scale outside the district.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937, for the year 1956 and as Form 572 (Revised)

Classified list of Registered Factories as at 31.12.56

	<u>Nature of employment</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-power</u>
1.	Carpentry, Joinery & Sawmills	1	2
2.	Garages, Repair shops & Engineers	10	6
3.	Plumbers	-	2
4.	Food Manufacturers	3	-
5.	Wearing Apparel (a) Outfitting	1	-

1.	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	15
		25	15

2. Cases in which
Defects were
Found

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector</u>
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7)			
(a) Insufficient	2	1	2

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER
DISEASES

Measles

An epidemic of measles occurred during the year, 246 cases being notified. The disease made its appearance in January and reached its peak in March, when 90 cases were notified. The course of the disease in those affected appears to have been straightforward and no deaths were recorded. There is no means of active immunisation against measles, and, as the disease is most highly infectious before the appearance of the rash, it is difficult, if not impossible, to check its spread. The evidence shows that the epidemic does not come to an end until the large majority of susceptibles have had the infection.

Diphtheria

No case occurred during the year. 59 children completed a course of primary immunisation against this disease. Three of the children were immunised against diphtheria only, the remainder receiving the combined prophylactic against diphtheria and whooping cough, or the newer prophylactic against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, which came into general use during the year.

Whooping Cough

38 cases were notified, this number including two adults. Five of the affected children had been immunised. There was one death from bronchopneumonia due to whooping cough. This child had been immunised, but appears to have had a severe infection. This fatality should not be accepted as an argument against this form of immunisation. There is no doubt that immunisation confers a considerable degree of protection on most children and either prevents an attack or so modifies it that the illness is mild and often trivial.

Acute
Poliomyelitis

No cases occurred during 1956. A scheme of vaccination against this disease was introduced by the Ministry of Health during the year. This was operated by the County Council, parents of children born between 1st January 1947 and 31st December 1954 being asked to register their children for vaccination. As the supply of vaccine was very small, children to receive vaccination were chosen by month of birth in accordance with a scheme laid down by the Ministry. Vaccination was carried out in May, June and December, 27 children in the Rural District receiving a complete course.

Food
Poisoning

A small outbreak occurred in September, 8 cases being notified. These were members of a picnic party of 13 adults and children. Symptoms were very mild and the patients had completely recovered by the time investigations could be begun. As no samples of the food eaten at the picnic were available, and no faecal specimens were obtained, the cause of the outbreak was not identified. Considerable time was spent on the enquiries, however, and this experience illustrates the frustration which so often attends the investigations of such outbreaks.

Smallpox

No case occurred during the year, 35 primary vaccinations being carried out.

Tuberculosis

	<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul</u>	<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non.Pul</u>
Cases on Register 31.12.55	9	-	4	-
No.of cases notified during the year	2	-	-	1
Cases restored	-	-	-	-
Inward Transfers	-	-	-	-
Cases Removed	1	-	1	-
<hr/>				
Total on Register 31.12.56	8	-	3	1
<hr/>				

B.C.G. Vaccination continues to be offered to all susceptible contacts of known cases, most of whom avail themselves of this protection.

The scheme for B.C.G.Vaccination of susceptible school leavers was continued by the County Council during the year, again with a good response.

OTHER DISEASES

Cancer of the Lung. It is now accepted that there has been a real increase in the incidence of this form of cancer during recent years. Widespread popular interest has been shown in the research which is being carried out into its association with smoking and in particular with cigarette smoking - an association which is statistically proven.

During 1956, out of a total of 9 deaths from cancer in the rural district, 4, all of males, were due to cancer of the lung. Since 1949, there have been 35 male and 34 male deaths from cancer. Of these, 11 male and 2 female deaths have been due to cancer of the lung. It is not known whether these particular deaths had any association with smoking, as the medical officer of health has no knowledge of such circumstances, nor, indeed, of the actual incidence of the disease. What is clear is that the district has not escaped its share in the condition, and, in the light of the work that has been done, this should serve as a word to the wise.

TABLE I

TUBERCULOSIS

Age and Sex Distribution of Cases and Deaths - 1956

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Non-Pul.</u>		<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Non Pul</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

TABLE II

VITAL STATISTICS

Summary for past five years

Year	Estimated Population	<u>BIRTHS</u>		<u>DEATHS</u>			
		No. Crude Rate		Under 1 year		All ages	
				No.	Infant Mortality Rate	No.	Crude Death Rate
1952	5,595	92	16.44	7	76.08	60	10.72
1953	5,630	95	16.86	2	21.05	51	9.58
1954	5,630	86	15.27	-	-	51	9.58
1955	5,320	73	13.72	3	41.09	77	14.47
1956	5,250	80	15.24	1	12.50	58	11.05

TABLE III

Monthly Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other
than Tuberculosis)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	6	-	-	3	1	12	8	5	3	38
Measles	15	61	90	37	38	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	246
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	8
	15	61	90	43	38	3	4	1	20	10	5	3	293

TABLE IV

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Total number of inspections made for all purposes	1865
New Private Water supplies provided	12
No. of samples of water analyses	35
Satisfactory 24: Unsatisfactory 11 .	
Existing water supplies improved	4
Number of houses connected during the year to the	
Council's mains	28
to Widenmouth Water Company's mains	1
to Bude-Stratton Urban District Council's mains	2
Pail or Privy closets converted to water closets	36
New drains laid to existing premises	35
Existing drains repaired	2
Complaints received	20
Nuisances abated	13
No. of bakehouse inspections	4
Premises disinfected	1
No. of inspections of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works	161
Camping sites	9
Offensive trades	NIL



Total number of inspections made for all purposes
New Private Water supplies provided	7
No. of samples of water analysed	25
Satisfactory 15; Unsatisfactory 10.					
Existing water supplies improved	5
Number of houses connected during the year to the Council's mains					Nil
to North Devon Water Board's mains	86
to Widemouth Water Company's mains	6
to Bude-Stratton Urban District Council's mains					Nil
Pail or Privy closets converted to water closets	23
New drains laid to existing premises	25
Existing drains repaired	2
Complaints received	26
Nuisances abated	17
No. of bakehouse inspections	3
Premises disinfected	3
No. of inspections of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works	118
Camping sites	18
Offensive Trades	Nil

Summary of the work done during the year 1940

The work done during the year 1940 has been summarized in the following table:

Item	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	609	608	607	606	605	604	603	602	601	600	599	598	597	596	595	594	593	592	591	590	589	588	587	586	585	584	583	582	581	580	579	578	577	576	575	574	573	572	571	570	569	568	567	566	565	564	563	562	561	560	559	558	557	556	555	554	553	552	551	550	549	548	547	546	545	544	543	542	541	540	539	538	537	536
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